

District 'C'hronicle



October 2021

Hamilton Masonic District C

Edition No.158

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From Our District Deputy Grand Master

Brethren,

Meet Bro. Harold Brooks.

Brother Brooks was initiated, passed and raised in Hiram & Lebanon Lodge No. 3 within the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Prince Edward Island.

He now lives in Burlington.

The Grand Master of Prince Edward Island, Most Worshipful Bro. D. Michael Learie asked our own Grand Master, Most Worshipful Bro. David J. Cameron, if we could extend a favour to our east coast brethren by presenting Bro. Brooks with a certificate. Our Grand Master was pleased to oblige.

Last month, I had the honour of presenting Bro. Brooks with his 70 year certificate and pin. 70 years! Bro. Brooks was piped in to the gazebo at his residence with some family, friends and his partner in attendance (all provincial guidelines were followed and all attendees were 2x vaccinated) and, after a few kind words from his daughter, Calla, Bro. Brooks was recognised for his impressive achievement.



I don't know if you can see it in his eyes in this photograph however, I can tell you his vitality, vibrancy and love of our Craft was easy to see. 70 years in the Craft and his eyes sparkled still with a passion for and pride in the Craft.

Harold may join us for our October Zoom forum – details of which can be found elsewhere in this edition – as he is actively keeping his fraternal bonds intact during the pandemic.

Brethren, I share this information with you for a few reasons: first, your district recently took good care of a Brother and I wanted you to know that; second, 70 years of membership in the Craft deserves all the recognition it gets; and third to illustrate the immeasurable benefits our gentle Craft can have on each of our lives when embraced as a second nature.

If I'm being honest, there is a fourth reason I share this with you. Brother Brooks was initiated on the 12th day of March, 1951. I can only imagine what he has seen and experienced in those 70 years. Perhaps I can only barely imagine it. Nevertheless, through it all, Harold has remained faithful to his beloved Craft supported by his fortitude.

It makes me think about our current predicament.

As you are all likely aware by now, our Grand Jurisdiction has extended the pause on Masonic gatherings until at least January 1st, 2022. Sad news, understandable news – but sad news indeed.

As a result of this pandemic, should any of you feel less attached to your Craft, less passionate about your fraternal bonds or less interested in practicing our Ritual as a result of our inability to meet formally, I understand. That being confessed, may I call on you for a favour?

If your flames of Masonry have cooled to dimming embers as a result of the past 20 months – think of your Brethren and reach out, think of your learnings and practice, think of what is yet to be accomplished.

Think of Brother Brooks.

You may find a little inspiration to keep going.

Fraternally,

R.W. Bro. William (Bill) Paul

The **DISTRICT 'C'HRONICLE** is published monthly in Hamilton, Ontario and is available for download on the district website at <http://www.hamiltondistrictmasons.org>. Please forward submissions to this newsletter through the contact details on our website.

Please note: The opinions and views expressed in any article in the District 'C'hronicle are those of the writers and therefore do not necessarily reflect the opinion of Grand Lodge. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions

From the Grand Master

An allegory, with apologies
to L. Frank Baum and
Gregory Maguire

Once upon a time there was a quaint village by the sea. The people who lived there were gentle and happy, and very social. They loved getting together for banquets and festivals, and always governed themselves by all gathering in the town square to debate issues. One day they were hit with an incredible storm; it rained and rained and rained. The streets began to flood. Rubber boots were in high demand down at the local Mercantile and soon sold out. They got more in but there were some people who said "It's just a little rain. That never hurt anybody." But it wasn't just a little rain. It was a lot of rain. And in addition, due to pollution in a neighbouring area, it was acid rain. If it got in your boots it started to irritate your skin causing inflammation. It was autumn and with the cooler temperatures, wet feet led to chilblains. Most people got over these conditions by themselves or with the help of the town doctor, but it was suggested it would be better to prevent problems by keeping their feet dry. This was harder than it seemed. Mothers told their children to wear their rubber boots when out, and they did, but when they were playing and running around some invariably fell, or got their boots stuck in the mud. Even the careful occasionally got wet when their playmates ran past them and water splashed up and into their boots. Spray from passing wagons soaked those walking alongside the road. The fishers and outdoors enthusiasts had hip waders which allowed them to take over the essential work needed to feed and keep the townspeople safe.

On the west edge of town lived a delightful woman who had a skin condition that was severely affected by water. Even a little bit of water would cause necrosis of the skin. She dealt with this by wearing long dresses and a wide-brimmed hat whenever she went out. But since the village was by the sea, it was often damp, so she mostly stayed in her castle. She was actually very nice, but her appearance and isolation led to the townspeople fearing her. Her sister had a physical disability that made it difficult to stand. For short periods she could get by with special orthotic shoes, but she often used a wheelchair. Neither of these sisters ventured out during the storm, the one for obvious reasons, the other because the wheels of her chair sprayed water up onto her when they rolled. They lived on opposite sides of the town, but kept in touch by means of crystal balls in which they could see and talk to each other. Other people in town also had this technology but they didn't use it much, and certainly not with these two marginalized persons.

The rain continued and the flood waters rose. The Mayor decreed that everyone who did not have hip waders must stay inside. The people did the best they could, but some had water pouring into their homes. There was much distress. Eventually the flood waters receded. And the Mercantile got in another



shipment of rubber boots – enough for everybody. Hooray, everyone was protected and life could go back to normal. Alas, the rain intensified and the flood waters rose again. But the rubber boots kept everyone's feet dry. That is, until the level of the flood waters rose above the tops of the boots!

Brethren, with high levels of COVID circulating in the community even the fully vaccinated still need to mask, physically distance and limit their social contacts. We all miss meeting in lodge but one of the things that Freemasons do is work for the betterment of society. Stay safe and keep others safe too.

David J. Cameron

Covid – 19 Update



GRAND LODGE OF
A.F. AND A.M. OF CANADA
IN THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO

GRAND MASTER

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Sept. 24, 2021

Brethren,

In the summer we had great hopes for a return to our labours in the fall. Since then vaccination rates have stagnated, the pandemic has reared its ugly head in Western Canada, and restrictions have not been lifted in Ontario. We do not know when the Province will move into its Exit Step. Our public health officials have consistently said that even those who are fully vaccinated should continue to wear masks, physically distance, and LIMIT THEIR SOCIAL CONTACTS.

Freemasons are committed to doing what is best for society and Grand Lodge has always kept the health and safety of our members at the forefront of our thoughts. Meeting in person is not essential to Masonry – we can stay connected in so many other ways, so we are extending the moratorium on in-person meetings. How long is up in the air, dependent on vaccination rates, level of infection in the community and government regulations.

For planning purposes we have now extended the moratorium on in-person Masonic gatherings, including memorial services, until January 1, 2022.

We continue to monitor all developments in health and safety regulations and if the situation changes before then, we will re-evaluate.

Outdoor social gatherings will still be allowed if they follow all the government regulations for Step 3, which include a written safety plan, signage about symptom screening, attendance lists for contact tracing, cleaning protocols, size limits and physical distancing. More if food is served.

A reminder that graveside services are not allowed by Grand Lodge.

Lodges and Districts are encouraged to continue to use available telecommunications technologies for education, social interaction, and, if needed, discussion of lodge business within the parameters that have been set up. If your lodge has not used these before, please contact your DDGM for details.

September Communique

From the Grand Master

*I have just three things to teach:
Simplicity, patience, compassion.
These are your greatest treasures.*
- Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching

Brethren,

I had written a Communiqué message only a few weeks ago with suggestions on re-opening, however as of the time of writing, the Province has paused the exit from the Roadmap to Reopen and we remain in Step 3. I don't know when we will resume the exit plan and be able to lift the moratorium on in-person meetings, so it doesn't seem appropriate to publish that message at the moment; I will save it for later.

There however are some simple things you can still do:

I ask that you continue to reach out and greet your brethren, by phone, by email, or even by post. Call your mentor and have a chat. Lodge officers should divide up the membership list and call EVERY brother so they know they are remembered and appreciated. Keep the list so you can call them again to invite them to lodge when we do return to labour. Call the men on your waiting list.

Call the widows of your lodge.

Continue to sign in to videoconferences. There are many that occur regularly. Check the events calendar on the Grand Lodge website to find an interesting one. If you are planning one, make sure it gets on that calendar by contacting the Seminars and Workshops Committee at Rickcadotte@hotmail.com.

Form a column of mutual defence against the pandemic by following all the provincial, municipal and Masonic guidelines. Please don't try to bend the rules/get around them. Look to the spirit of the law; it is there to protect us all.

Keep your brethren in your thoughts and prayers. Extend compassion to those who are lonely and those who are overworked, those who are suffering and those who are trying to relieve it, those who are at high risk and those who are vaccine hesitant. As M.W. Bro. John Green has often said, "In a world where you can be anything, be kind".

Think twice before posting on Social Media. Name calling and vicious "discussion" does nothing to uphold a brother's honour, nor that of the Craft.

Have Patience. We will rise up again.

Make the best of the present. Stay safe.

David J. Cameron

*As torrents in summer, Half dried in their channels,
Suddenly rise, tho' the sky is still cloudless. For rain has
been falling.
Far off at their fountains;
So hearts that are fainting Grow full to o'erflowing,
And they that behold it, Marvel, and know not
That God at their fountains Far off has been
raining!*
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

From the Grand Secretary

Brethren,

Resumption of labor:

A repeat of the August 11, 2021 directive that is still in force: "The moratorium on indoor meetings will end if and only if we go into the Provincial Exit Step, or September 01, whichever comes LATER."

As of this writing it appears that the Provincial Exit Step will NOT happen by September 01.

Thus, with the continuance of the Masonic lockdown there are several important reminders.

Outdoor Masonic Events:

The Province is presently permitting outdoor gatherings of larger numbers. However, please be aware that ALL health regulations must be observed – over and above masking and social distancing.

You are encouraged to read the information found at this link: <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/200364>

We suggest that you pay particular attention to Schedule 1 items 2.(3)(a) [signs] and 3.3(1)[Safety Plan], and Schedule 3 item 1[numbers limit].

Contact tracing should also be a key factor in holding any such event at the present time.

Finally, **dispensation is required** for outdoor gatherings of Masons (with or without regalia).

Book of Constitution: Sec.143. Except at Masonic Memorial Services, no public procession or function of the brethren as Masons, with or without regalia, shall be allowed to take place, without a dispensation from the Grand Master.

Masonic Memorial Services:

Please remember that, regrettably, the holding of Masonic Memorial Services is still not permitted.

Long Service Pins:

Our office staff will once again start to receive requests for long service pins. Appropriate care must be taken to obey all local health regulations if these pins are to be presented in-person. Please remember that presently indoor Masonic gatherings are not permitted.

Fraternally, Garry

D. Garry Dowling, Grand Secretary

From the Grand Lodge Website ...

These items have a direct link for your convenience

September 24, 2021

[Covid-19 Update from the Grand Master](#)

September 14, 2021

[Mentoring Matters Bulletins Vol. 20 to 23](#)

[Mentoring Architecture Vol. 1](#)

[Mentoring Minute Vol. 4](#)

<https://grandlodge.on.ca/>

From the Deputy

My Brethren:

The last time we were preparing The Communique, I was hoping the next one would be able to scream WELCOME BACK!!! – speaking of our Lodge meetings. It is now looking like we will have to settle for welcome back to The Communique and our Lodge virtual meetings.

What we need to be doing now in preparation of going back to Lodge is to communicate the expectations and what we can each do in preparation for that happy day.

One of the most important jobs during this period falls on the Grand Lodge Mentoring Committee and the new class of District Deputy Grand Masters. The task of the Grand Lodge Mentoring Committee has not changed in the last two years and that is to assure every Lodge has the properly trained Mentors and the tools so that every level of the membership has the proper training to perform his job – from the Worshipful Master to the man off the street who has shown an interest in Masonic membership.

One of the key instructions to the new DDGMs is to be the lightning rod of this objective in every District. They have been asked to meet with the outgoing DDGM to obtain all his knowledge of the District Mentoring that has taken place in the previous two years. This will include the work of the District Mentor and the Roving Mentor(s). It will also include an update on the mentoring endeavours of each of the Lodges in his District.

They will be compiling a list of all the Lodge Mentors in the District by Lodge with their contact information and adding to this list any brothers in the Lodges who would seem to have the qualification and interest in Mentoring.

If the previous District Mentor is continuing, there is to be a discussion with him about the plan and procedures for the coming year. If he is capable and performing in the role, he has been asked to continue in the role. It is important that the appointment of Mentors is well considered and not just given to a friend with a passing interest or future ambition. If the former District Mentoring Chair was not wanting to continue, every attempt is to be made to find the best qualified replacement in the District, and to consider any others who could serve as Roving Mentors for the region.

The first and most important task of the District Mentor is to liaise with his Roving Mentors and as quickly as possible get to work with the Lodges. The District Mentor is to ensure that every Lodge in their District has a capable and active Mentor(s) appointed and that he has their contact information to communicate directly with the Mentoring Material (including previous copies if he is new to the job) and be advised of District Mentoring and Mentoring Committee events that he ought to attend. If you are a part of this team, you have probably already been in touch with W. Bro. Joe Johnson, Mentoring Committee Communications, (joej@ca.ibm.com) who has been charged with communications for the Grand Lodge Mentoring team. Please rest assured that the protection of your contact information is

in good hands and you can trust with confidence that such information will only be used for Mentoring communication.

You need to keep in mind that the role of the Mentoring Committee is to Mentor the Mentors at every level in our structure – Candidates and Officers. The Mentoring Structure can only achieve that with the DDGMs on board. And they will only be successful with your support and cooperation.

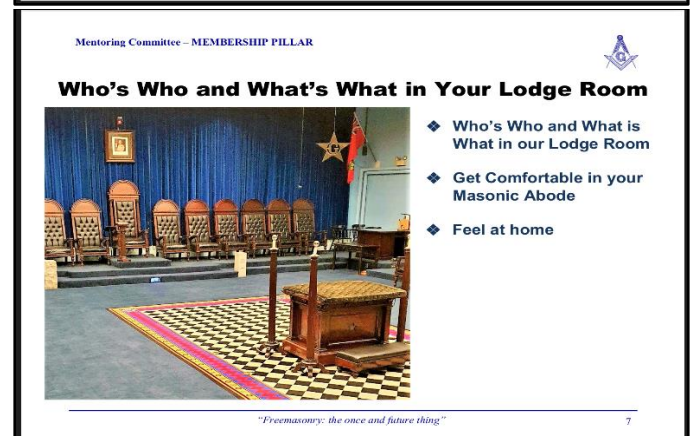
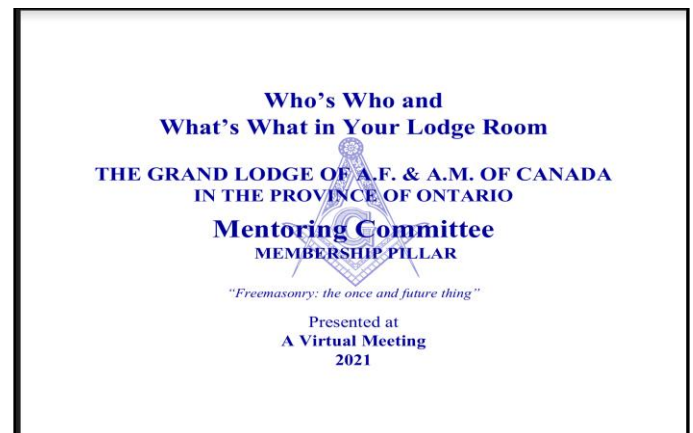
The success of our return to Lodge and the future of the Craft lies firmly in the hands of how well the Enquirers, Candidates, Officers and in fact, entire Lodges are Mentored.

V.W. Bro. Stephen Maizels (mentorgc@gmail.com) has been a work horse since assuming the Chairmanship of the Grand Lodge Mentoring Committee, regularly producing communications to assist the team in their task.

The team has had regular Mentoring communications and Mentoring Structure virtual meetings to keep the team informed and engaged. The virtual meetings are not lecturing but rather are open meetings with some very good exchange of ideas. The Grand Lodge Mentoring Committee is available to assist Districts and Lodges by conducting or providing material for virtual presentations which are always highly entertaining and informative. They can be a District Event or for a Lodge that can assemble a reasonable attendance (including other Lodges or Enquirers to Freemasonry).

All you have to do is ask and we will help you be a success!

Thomas W. Hogeboom Deputy Grand Master



<https://grandlodge.on.ca/index.php/operations/mentors/pp-1-the-lodge-room/2964-ppt-show-grand-lodge-mentoring-whos-who-final>

Hamilton District 'C' - October Masonic Forum

Community Outreach Pillar

Your district forum will be held on **Wednesday, October 6th at 7:30 p.m.** Our guest speaker will be **R.W. Bro. Art Di Cecco, Community Outreach Pillar Chair**, along with a few members of his team.

There will be several topics of presentation including our Grand Jurisdiction's recent rebranding effort, how we can capitalise on that rebrand, community outreach through youth initiatives and university and college presence.

As always, the presentations will be followed by an open Q&A session when you can actively participate with comments, opinions and questions. Here is the Zoom link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88395019785?pwd=MIQ2RzlgTIRTSHMtY3E2TnFEaWt2dz09>

Meeting ID: 883 9501 9785

Passcode: 991835

These forums offer not only insights into what Grand Lodge has been doing; they also afford the participants an opportunity to share their voice in shaping how we will move forward. The forums also simply provide each of us the chance to see one another and spend a few rewarding minutes together.

Brethren, I look forward to 'C'ing you soon!

Fraternally,

Bill

R.W. Bro. William (Bill) Paul
District Deputy Grand Master, Hamilton Masonic District 'C'
williamwalterpaul@gmail.com, (905) 719-6464



Hamilton District 'C' Open House

Hamilton District 'C' will be hosting a Virtual Open House on Monday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Here is the link to the event:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85608302432?pwd=MUJnUULnSzNmTnJldm5oRWNXR3kwQT09>

Meeting ID: 856 0830 2432

Passcode: 825510

There will be a presentation which will focus on a brief history of Masonry, what Masonry is and what we do. The presentation will be followed by an open Q&A.

If you have men in your life who have shown an interest in learning about the Craft or have asked you about Freemasonry, this Open House will be of value to them. Please pass along this link as you see appropriate.

Hosted by Hamilton District 'C' Membership and Community Outreach Chair,
W. Bro. Jason Burgoin.

Please let him know who you have invited to attend or if you have any questions.

Only attendees who are known to be participating as of November 21st will be admitted from the virtual waiting room.

Contact:

jason.burgoin@gmail.com



Image Source for Sam Lawrence Park, Tourism Hamilton

Our District Charity



This year's District Charity will be Mission Services of Hamilton.

Mission Services of Hamilton is a non-profit, multi-social service agency that believes every person deserves access to healthy food, safe housing, and opportunities for tomorrow.

They accomplish this by offering professional services in a caring and dignified manner to every person who comes through their doors — without regard to faith, race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, educational status, or sexual orientation.

Their services include emergency shelter and housing first programs for men, emergency food assistance, Inasmuch House shelter for women and children fleeing violence, addiction services, youth afterschool programs, and Willow's Place, a low-barrier daytime resource hub for women experiencing homelessness.

Mission Services is on a mission to end poverty and create safe places to learn, heal and grow.

This excellent, local and committed charity will be the recipient of 100% of the funds raised at our June 2022 golf tournament.

Any donations, whether personal or from a lodge, should be made payable to The Masonic Foundation of Ontario and reference Project 2406. E-transfers can also be made to donations@tmfo.ca

District Charity Golf Event



The District Charity Golf Event will be held on Saturday June 25, 2022 at Century Pines in support of Mission Services of Hamilton!

Our Pillars of Success are:

- Raising the most money as is possible for Mission Services
- Increasing awareness of Mission Services
- Increasing knowledge and awareness of Masonry
- Having fun!

How you and your lodge can get involved:

- We are hopeful each lodge will participate with a minimum of a 4some
- Bring family and friends - diners only are welcome
- Bring those who may be interested in Masonry
- Sponsor a hole, donate a silent auction prize, volunteer with us!

More details to follow but for now, please reach us at: MasonicOpen22@gmail.com

Your District Events team: Greg Bell & Ed Manmohan



What a handsome 4Some!



A Lecture from R.W. Bro. Thomas R. Marshall On Thanksgiving

Brethren, if I asked what tradition happens on the 2nd Monday in October, I'm sure many if not all would answer, the Thanksgiving Holiday and you would be correct. Well, you could have not asked for any better weather than what we had this holiday weekend.

Normally, my wife and I and sometimes our daughter travel to Chicago and celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving with my other daughter and her family. However, this year was to be different. Since my daughter and her family would be coming this way in a few weeks to attend a function, we decided to stay home. My thought was that I was going to hook onto our 5th wheel travel trailer and go away for the weekend, but my wife and daughter had other plans. My daughter was cooking her turkey on Sunday and we would be there for dinner and then on Monday we would all go to the Balls Falls Festival for a family outing.

Needless to say, you know who won. So, Sunday afternoon I went to my daughters and while the women were inside getting everything ready I took a couple of drinks and a cigar and sat out on the deck, basking in the fall sunshine. It was there that I started thinking.

Instead of being annoyed about the fact that I didn't get to do what I wanted, I looked around and thought how lucky I was. Not taking the trailer out was not such a big deal.

There will be other times that I can use my trailer, and besides here I am relaxing in the sun and about to enjoy a dinner with people that are important to me, my family.

The point of Thanksgiving is to remember the things we have to be grateful for. It's our special time to give thanks... not just for the obvious, like food, but for the thousands of fortunate moments, the multitude of blessings that we receive each year. Isn't it wonderful that we don't have to worry where our next meal is coming from or where we will be sleeping tonight?

I'm sure we can recall those old grade school lessons about the Pilgrims and all their hardships. As a group they shared with each other, farming together on community property. They starved and suffered together too. But, they hung in there and worked together and eventually overcame the obstacles.

Let's look at today. I hope everyone took the opportunity to vote today. Even though we may not agree with all the ideas of the various parties, we have the right to voice our opinion and vote. We should be thankful for this country we call home and even though it may not be utopia, it isn't all that bad.

The freedoms that we enjoy, for example, speech and expression, to travel freely, to own our property, etc. are cornerstones of our democratic country. There are still places in this world that have not learned these fundamental truths.

Yet we still think we have it rough. It is no wonder people that come from these other countries have trouble understanding our complaints.

Giving thanks is not always as easy as it sounds. We tend to remember the bad things much more easily than the good. Some times we have to think of the good things that happened because something bad happened first.

For example, we all have been behind a slow driver and cursed him and then to find out around the corner was a policeman and it hadn't been for that slower driver I would have been speeding and got a ticket. It is important not to focus on what you don't have but rather focus on what you have.

As I said earlier, think about how fortunate you are to have food, a place to sleep, and a safe neighborhood to live with your family.

When I look around this room I see people that I can say I'm thankful are my friends. The lodge has shown us what is important in life and I'm thankful the way that the craft gives to others.

I am also thankful for those people who made life hard for me or challenged me to accomplish more. Because of them I may have achieved goals that I may have thought were unattainable. Even those people that were cruel may have made me vow never to treat someone that way.

So take the negative and make it a positive.

Finally brethren, remember that hard times make good time sweeter. Also keep in mind that obstacles and challenges not only make you stronger, but they force you to explore outside of the comfortable routine that you've settled into. Without challenges, there can be no progress. Without obstacles there can be no achievement.

Be thankful for the opportunities that they provide.

Thank you

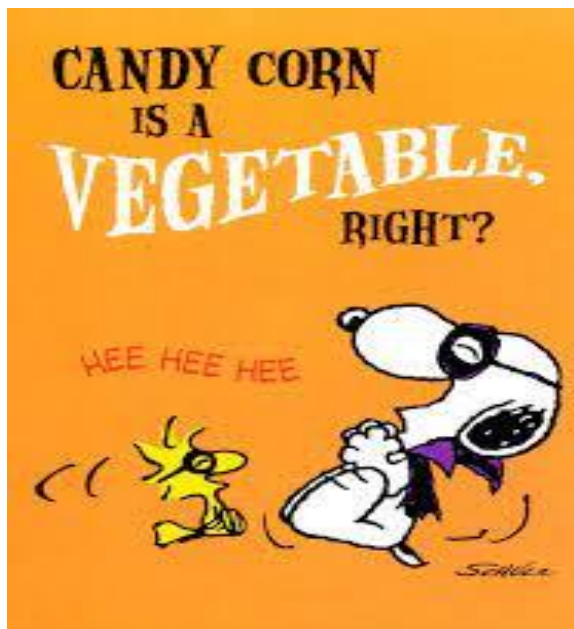
From the speeches archived on the Hamilton District C Website. For R.W. Bro. Thomas R. Marshall



Humour



**THEY SAY WITH AGE
COMES WISDOM SO
THEREFORE I DON'T
HAVE WRINKLES
I HAVE WISE CRACKS.**



Happy Halloween to Everyone!

IN MEMORIAM

Bro. Kenneth Winning
Harodim Lodge No.513

A member of the Scottish Rite (32 degree)
and
Corinthian (Harodim) Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above September 10, 2021



**In Life Respected, In Death Regretted.
We will cherish him in our hearts forever.**

From the Editor

Brethren,

Some months the content just gets provided to us, others we dig. With a preview of October's Grand Master message and the September Covid updates, half this edition was there when we started. The Covid announcement from Grand Lodge sets a more concrete timeframe for restarting. My fingers are crossed and I hope this deadline holds; masks, passports and hygiene are all the rage.

Themes of charity, Thanksgiving and staying safe throughout the final stages of Covid, ring throughout the pages. Personally, the archival speech from R.W. Bro. Tom Marshall fits really well with what I have been experiencing. Please check out the other Past DDGM's speeches on our website for interesting reads and thought provoking content.

Providing timely and integrated content is one of our editorial pillars. Bill and I are always on the lookout for submissions; using facebook and other social media for a lot of the "humour" we publish.

We are always interested in how the readers feel about our content. Would love to see submissions for November 11th and any feedback you wish to provide.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Be well, be safe! S&F, Glen



Editorial Team

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